

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SR-02 ORM-01

AID-05 FDRE-00 SY-05 ISO-00 /068 W

----- 128197

R 140825Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2309

INFO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

C O N F I D E N T I A L SINGAPORE 1497

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, SN, VS

SUBJECT: GOS DISPOSITION OF VIETNAMESE C-130

REF: SINGAPORE 1497

1. AT MY SUGGESTION DEPUTY SECRETARY OF MFA TAN BOON SENG HAS PREPARED AND FORWARDED TO ME THE FOLLOWING AIDE-MEMOIRE WHICH CONFORMS CLOSELY TO WHAT I REPORTED IN REFTEL.

2. QUOTE: THE PERMANENT SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, MET THE AMBASSADOR OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA IN SINGAPORE ON 11 APRIL 1975 TO DISCUSS THE QUESTION OF THE FIFTY-SIX SOUTH VIETNAMESE REFUGEES WHO ENTERED SINGAPORE ILLEGALLY. THE VIEWS CONVEYED BY THE PERMANENT SECRETARY TO THE AMBASSADOR ARE SUMMARISED BELOW AS FOLLOWS:

A) THE QUESTION OF THE AIRCRAFT AND THE REFUGEES, INCLUDING THE FOUR AIR FORCE OFFICERS, WILL HAVE TO BE TAKEN TOGETHER.

B) THE AIRCRAFT, BEING A STOLEN PROPERTY, HAS BEEN IMPOUNDED UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THE CRIMINAL PROCEDURE CODE. AS IN THE CASE OF DISPOSAL OF ALL STOLEN PROPERTY, IT WILL BE NECESSARY FOR THE POLICY

TO GO THROUGH CERTAIN LEGAL PROCESSES IN OUR LAW COURTS, FOR THE RETURN OF THE AIRCRAFT TO THE RIGHTFUL OWNERS. THIS WILL NORMALLY TAKE SOME TIME.

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C) SINCE THE REFUGEES, INCLUDING THE AIR FORCE CREW, ARE HIGHLY

EMOTIONAL AT THIS STAGE AND ARE REPEATEDLY THREATENING TO COMMIT SUICIDE, IT WILL NOT BE POSSIBLE FOR THE SINGAPORE GOVERNMENT TO FORCE THEM TO RETURN TO SAIGON AGAINST THEIR WILL.

D) THE SINGAPORE GOVERNMENT IS NOT AGREEABLE TO ANY ARMED PERSONNEL COMING FROM SOUTH VIETNAM EITHER FOR THE RECOVERY OF THE AIRCRAFT OR TO FORCE THE REFUGEES BACK.

E) IF THE US GOVERNMENT IS WILLING TO TAKE OVER THE 56 REFUGEES, INCLUDING THE FOUR AIR FORCE PERSONNEL, AND PROVIDE THEM WITH REFUGEE IN A PLACE OTHER THAN SOUTH VIETNAM, THE FORMALITIES FOR THE RETURN OF THE AIRCRAFT COULD BE GONE THROUGH WITH AS LITTLE DELAY AS POSSIBLE.

F) SINCE THERE IS NO CERTAINTY THAT ANY VIETNAMESE CREW WILL INDEED TAKE BACK THE PLANE TO SOUTH VIETNAM, THE US SHOULD PROVIDE THE NECESSARY CREW TO FLY THE PLANE BACK TO SAIGON.

G) UNDER THE IMMIGRATION REGULATIONS, THE OWNERS, CHARTERERS OR AGENTS OF THE PLANE ARE LIABLE TO THE SINGAPORE GOVERNMENT FOR THE COST OF FEEDING THE 56 REFUGEES AND FOR ANY EXPENSES INCURRED IN CONNECTION WITH THEM.

END QUOTE. CRONK

NOTE BY OC/T: REFTEL APPARENTLY INCORRECT.

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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